



Hope Peace Joy Love

Emmanuel, God with Us

Worship Celebration

Christmas Eve

December 24, 2020 + 7 PM

Welcome to The United Methodist Church of Berea!

*As followers of Jesus Christ, who reveals a God whose love knows no boundaries, we are committed to welcoming and affirming every person as a beloved child of God. Every person—of every sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, age, economic status, health, ability, or any other identifying label—is welcome to participate fully in our ministries and life together as church. We hope The UMC of Berea will become a home for you, your family, and your friends as together, **we make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.***

Join us in worship, this week and every week:

Sunday at 11 AM online (www.facebook.com/umcberea/videos)

Monday—Friday at 9 am (Morning Prayer) via Zoom (meeting id: 518 014 483)

Wednesday at 7 pm (Evening Prayer) via Zoom (meeting id: 848 4741 1964; passcode: 195510)

In preparation for worship, you are encouraged to light a candle as a reminder of God's presence.

We Gather as God's Children

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Call to Worship

Do not be afraid.

I bring you good news of great joy, for all people.

To you is born this day, in the city of David,

a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.

***There is nothing in death or life, in things present or things to come,
nothing in all creation that can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

Rejoice in the Lord always, and again, I say, rejoice!

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Hymn

O Come, All Ye Faithful (vv. 1-3, 6)

UMH 234

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant, O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem.

Come and behold him, born the King of angels;

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

True God of true God, Light from Light Eternal, lo, he shuns not the Virgin's womb;

Son of the Father, begotten, not created;

O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.

*Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; O sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, all glory in the highest;
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.
Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this happy morning, Jesus, to thee be all glory given.
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing:
O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.*

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Prayer

*God of peace, you hold the nations in your hand yet know and love us each.
By your Spirit, you gather us; in Christ, you make us one.
As we worship you this holy evening,
show us who we are, what we can be, and where we should go,
through Jesus Christ, our Deliverer, Partner, and Companion. Amen.*

We Grow in God's Word

Leader: With disciples of every time and place, let us listen for the word of God among us.

People: *Our ears and hearts are open.*

First Lesson—Isaiah 9.2-7 (CEB)

²The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

On those living in a pitch-dark land, light has dawned.

³You have made the nation great; you have increased its joy.

They rejoiced before you as with joy at the harvest, as those who divide plunder rejoice.

⁴As on the day of Midian, you've shattered the yoke that burdened them,
the staff on their shoulders, and the rod of their oppressor.

⁵Because every boot of the thundering warriors,
and every garment rolled in blood will be burned, fuel for the fire.

⁶A child is born to us, a son is given to us, and authority will be on his shoulders.

He will be named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

⁷There will be vast authority and endless peace for David's throne and for his kingdom,
establishing and sustaining it with justice and righteousness now and forever.

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Second Lesson—Titus 2.11-14 (CEB)

¹¹The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all people. ¹²It educates us so that we can live sensible, ethical, and godly lives right now by rejecting ungodly lives and the desires of this world.

¹³At the same time we wait for the blessed hope and the glorious appearance of our great God and savior Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He gave himself for us in order to rescue us from every kind of lawless behavior, and cleanse a special people for himself who are eager to do good actions.

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

*Angels we have heard on high sweetly singing o'er the plains,
and the mountains in reply echoing their joyous strains.*

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

*Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heavenly song?*

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

*Come to Bethlehem and see Christ whose birth the angels sing;
come, adore on bended knee, Christ the Lord, the newborn King.*

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

*See him in a manger laid, whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid, while our hearts in love we raise.*

Gloria, in excelsis Deo! Gloria, in excelsis Deo!

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Gospel Lesson—Luke 2.1-20 (NRSV)

¹ In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ² This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³ All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴ Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵ He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. ⁶ While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. ⁷ And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

⁸ In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹ Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. ¹⁰ But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: ¹¹ to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. ¹² This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” ¹³ And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

¹⁴ “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favors!”

¹⁵ When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” ¹⁶ So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger. ¹⁷ When they saw this, they made known what had been told them about this child; ¹⁸ and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds told them. ¹⁹ But Mary treasured all these words and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰ The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.

Leader: The word of God for the people of God.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Children's Message

Sermon

Hymn

What Child Is This

Prayers of the People

Opportunities for Ministry and Invitation to Give our Tithes and Offerings

Some of us may be experiencing financial hardship or uncertainty during this season, but our generosity through the life of the church remains crucial as an expression of our discipleship and to ensuring that we can maintain our commitments to mission and ministry during this uncertain time. If you already give financially online (www.umcb.org/donate) or by mailing a check to the church office, thank you! If you do not do so already, please consider giving through one of these methods now as we continue to make and mature disciples of Jesus Christ for the transformation of the world.

Doxology

Hark! the Herald Angels Sing (v. 1)

UMH 240

***Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations rise, join the triumph of the skies;
with th'angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"***

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The Great Thanksgiving

In these extraordinary circumstances, you are invited this morning to have prepared Communion elements or a simple piece of bread ready to receive as we participate together in the holy mystery of Communion, even while we remain physically apart. We will receive the elements at the same time, though not in the same place, trusting that through the presence of the Holy Spirit, our sharing is sacramental as our spirits interact with God's and with one another's. If the risen Christ really is present in all times and places, then surely Christ really is present among us even now. There is no substitute for gathering together in person; however, through God's grace, we trust that we still are held in communion with God and with one another.

The Lord be with you. ***And also with you.***

Lift up your hearts. ***We lift them up to the Lord.***

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. ***It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, almighty God, creator of heaven and earth.

You create the whole world and call it good.

You fill us with the breath of life and give us the gift of community.

In a world of violence, fear, and division, you send your love to us in the form of a vulnerable child, to heal us and make us whole.

And so, with your people on earth and your whole creation, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

***Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.***

Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Word made flesh in Jesus Christ.

He was born among excluded, overlooked people.

He grew in wisdom and love, and his ministry proclaimed your good news: freedom for captives, justice for the poor, welcome for the shut-out.

By the baptism of Jesus' birth, life, death, and resurrection, you give birth to your church, deliver us from slavery to sin and death, and make with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

On the night we betrayed and abandoned him, Jesus gathered with the disciples, took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, shared it, and said:

"Receive, eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this to remember me."

When the supper was over, Jesus took the cup, again gave thanks to you, shared it, and said: “Drink this, all of you; this is my love, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this, as often as you drink it, to remember me.”

And so, in remembrance of these and all your mighty acts of grace, we offer ourselves now in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ’s offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood, the life and love, of Christ, that we may be the body of Christ for the world, redeemed and renewed by your grace. By your Spirit, make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to the world, until Christ comes again, welcoming all people to feast at your table.

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, almighty God, now and forever. ***Amen.***

The Lord’s Prayer

Sharing the Bread and Cup

Hymn

O Holy Night

Adolphe Adam

Prayer following Communion

Holy One, you come to us in the seemingly simple: flesh and blood, bread and wine.

Yet when you come to us, you change our lives.

Help us to receive you so fully this night

that through our lives, all will know your love, in Christ’s name, Amen.

We Go Out to Serve in God’s Name

Hymn

All Is Well

All is well, all is well, angels and men rejoice.

For tonight, darkness fell into the dawn of love’s light. Sing alle, sing alleluia.

All is well, all is well, let there be peace on earth.

Christ is come, go and tell that He is in the manger. Sing alle, sing alleluia.

All is well, all is well, lift up your voice and sing.

Born is now Emmanuel. Born is our Lord and Savior. Sing alleluia, sing alleluia, all is well.

All Is Well / Wayne Kirkpatrick, Michael W. Smith / 2989 Universal Music—Brentwood Benson Songs

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Lighting of All Candles

Christ, the light of the world, gives to each one of us a light, so that we too may shine with hope, peace, joy, and love.

Hold the light, enjoy the light, and be thankful.

And when you extinguish your candle,

take the light of Christ with you out into your relationships with others.

*Stille Nacht, heilige Nacht! Alles Schlaf, einsam wacht
nur das traute hochheilige Paar, Holder Knabe mit lockigem Haar,
schlaf im himmlischer Ruh, schlaf im himmlischer Ruh.*

*Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
round yon virgin mother and child. Holy infant, so tender and mild,
sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.*

*Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight;
glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing Alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!*

*Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light;
radiant beams from thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at thy birth, Jesus, Lord, at thy birth.*

*Silent night, holy night, wondrous star, lend they light;
with the angels let us sing, Alleluia to our King;
Christ the Savior is born, Christ the Savior is born!*

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Benediction (from John 1.1, 3-5)

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.
What has come into being in the Word is life, and the life is the light for all people.
The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it.
Thanks be to God. Amen.

Postlude

*Our service of worship is ended.
Our worship through service now begins.*





The Magi came bearing gifts, and began the tradition of gift-giving to celebrate the birth of Christ. We join them this year, offering our gifts to support our community, specifically three of our mission partners - OhioGuidestone, Grindstone Elementary Emergency Fund, and Nehemiah Mission of Cleveland. With each donation in memory or honor of a loved one, a star was placed on our tree in the Sanctuary.

**Stars were placed on our tree
in loving memory of:**

Bob & Louise Laughlin and Rev. Valerie Stultz
by Carrie & Jason Antczak

Geraldine Peters by Molly Arthur

Harry & Marie Gregg and Virden & Roberta Beckman
by Karl & Cass Beckman

David Beckman by Pat Beckman

Church Family Members by Karen & Amelia Caldwell

Our Family Members and Friends who will always
be in our hearts but are now at peace with the
Holy One by The Donahue Family

Douglas Esper by Sue Esper

Harl, Dad, & Papa and Loved Ones by Barbara Evans

My Parents, Marie & Randall Brown
by Molly Brown Force

Bob & Helen Graham by The Graham Family

Nicole Cline Lambert by Paul & Jan Harlamert

Bill Hunger by Mary Lou Hunger

John Kappeler by Carol Kappeler

Robert Leece, Andrew Ballas, and Katherine Ballas
by Ellen Leece

Our Great Grandparents by Emily & Amanda Kurtz

Kevin Raymond Dorr by The Kurtz Family

Helen Mallarnee by Martha Mallarnee

My parents, Rex & Erma Ralph by Besty Meikle

Lydia Proctor, Carol Hemker, Pat Reese, Linda
Donahue, Barb Rochford, Carol Isgro, Nick Wik,
Laurie Garvin, and Dick Vale by NEWSingers

Lydia Proctor, Carol Hemker, Steve Holland, Alice
Holland, and Beverly Holland by Margaret Proctor

Dave Robinson and Parents & Grandparents
by Barb Robinson

Jim Rollins Sr., Loving Husband & Father, and
Jean Boyer, Loving Mother & Grandmother,
by The Rollins Family

Phillip Rowland and Our Parents, Virginia & Ray
Greenough and Donna & Bob Rowland
by Dean & LinRowland

My Parents, Bob & JoAnne Hahn by Laura Rushton

George & Doris Reich and Bob & Meredith Shank
by Ed & Kathy Shank

Lydia Proctor, Beloved Mother & Grandmother by
Carol A. Stepancik

Our Loved Ones who have gone before us
by MaryLynn & Jerry Swartz

Don Sankey, Kenny Pogues, Becky Stary,
Bruce Rowland, Ken Williams, Julie Wharton,
Tom Christian, Pat Streinowski, Judy Stuchul,
George Shamatta, and Nancy Wildenhaus
by Judy & Chet Talarczyk

Kenneth Lane Williams by Sharon Williams

**Stars were placed on our tree
in loving honor of:**

Our Pastors by Kathleen Bradley

Our Family by Paul & Jan Harlamert

Nathan & Megan Howe by Mary & Jack Howe

Our Family, Our Church Family, Our two Nieces
born this year, and The UMCB Staff Team
by Megan & Nathan Howe

Carol Stepancik and Margaret Proctor
by Hilary Kirchner

Lin & Dean Rowland by The Kurtz Family

Our Children - Tommy, Fred, Shawn, Chris, and Cheryl
by The Mareks

Our Families near and far by Barbara Peterson &
Tom Riggie

David Proctor by Margaret Proctor

Julie, Larry, Owen, & Josie by Barb Robinson

Beloved Father & Grandfather - Dr. David Proctor,
Daughters - Hilary & Jenny and Sons-inLaw - Dan &
Colin, Janice Stuart, Josiah Artz, Linda & Bill
Cornell, Howard & Sue Proctor, David Proctor Jr.,
Margaret Proctor, Adam Proctor, and all my
Nephews and Nieces, their Spouses and Children,
born & unborn by Carol A Stepancik